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Assembly California Legislature



JARED HUFFMAN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR, WATER, PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
NATURAL RESOURCES
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE NO.3
ON RESOURCES

September 8, 2009

Kara Laney
Division on Earth and Life Studies
Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Natural Resources Council, National Academy of Science
500 Fifth St. N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Laney:

We are writing to request clarification of the mandate, scope and composition of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) committee that is currently reviewing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) classification status of the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). Input from NAS will be very important in shaping our opinions on whether reclassification of the pest is or is not justified, and it is our expectation that NAS will provide an independent assessment based on a scientific review of the classification of the LBAM as a pest warranting eradication.

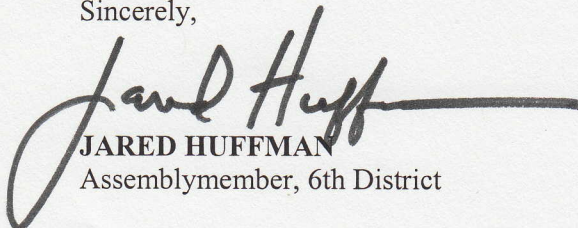
With respect to the mandate set by USDA, please confirm the committee's charge, and if it will be limited to determining if the process utilized by USDA to review the petition for reclassification was scientifically based. Your response should address the questions that have been raised by the petitioners, as attached, concerning assessment of the scientific basis for reclassification of the pest, and whether the Reclassification Petition of Harder, et al.(2007), provides a scientific basis for reclassifying the pest as a minor pest.


In terms of the composition of the committee charged with this review, please identify the individuals and their related expertise that comprise the committee as well as the process that was used to select these members.

The LBAM infestations in our collective districts are significant and have raised serious concerns in our communities ranging from impact on public health to the environment from proposed eradication programs, including aerial spray of pesticides in urban areas. Your role in determining whether the classification of this pest warrants quarantines and eradication programs is very important to us and the public we represent.

Thank you in advance for your significant work and your prompt response to this inquiry.

Sincerely,


JARED HUFFMAN
Assemblymember, 6th District


MARK LENO
Senator, 3rd District

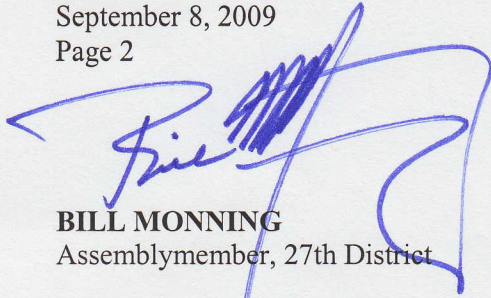


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Kara Laney, Division on Earth and Life Studies

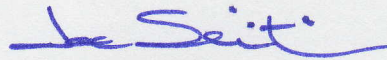
September 8, 2009

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Monning".

BILL MONNING

Assemblymember, 27th District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Simitian".

JOE SIMITIAN

Senator, 11th District

cc: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, US Department of Agriculture
Congressman Mike Thompson, 1st District
Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, 6th District
Congressman George Miller, 7th District
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, 8th District
Congressman Barbara Lee, 9th District
Congresswoman Jackie Speier, 12th District
Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, 14th District
Congressman Sam Farr, 17th District
US Senator Barbara Boxer
US Senator Diane Feinstein